



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBASSIES VISIT MALAYSIA'S FIRST CENTRALISED LABOUR QUARTERS

Kuala Lumpur, 17 June 2013: Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Sdn Bhd (MRT Corp) hosted the labour attachés of different countries at the Cheras Centralised Labour Quarters (CLQs) today. The visit enabled the representatives to witness themselves the living environment at these quarters, and the facilities provided.

These CLQs, which are also located in Sungai Buloh, Cochrane and Kajang, are each equipped with spacious cabins, a cafeteria, a *surau*, a sick bay, washing facilities, recreational facilities and sundry shops. The living quarters are also built with state-of-the-art security features, where workers must go through a face recognition system upon entering.

The highlight of the visit was a walkabout of the CLQs, where embassy representatives were able to witness first-hand the living situation of workers. They were brought to the cabins, where there are six occupants in each one, and also to the centralised kitchen where workers are allowed to cook their own meals.

"It's about time a proper housing facility is developed in the construction industry, for foreign workers in Malaysia. It goes to show how much we value their contribution, as they form the majority of hard labour in this country," said MRT Corp Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Azhar Abdul Hamid.

"These CLQs will not only be their temporary place of stay, but also a place that offers a healthy lifestyle in a more orderly fashion. The workers do not have to go far to play sports for instance, a futsal court is already built in the compound of the CLQs," he explained further.

Dato' Azhar stressed that a visit like this will give reassurance to labour attachés that their workers are in good hands. By the time the first MRT line has completed, there would have been about 13,000 workers employed. In the next four years, these workers will be brought into the country in batches, according to their job scopes.

He also said that it is the hope of MRT Corp that this effort will be emulated for all other major construction projects in the country and that the relevant authorities will take this into consideration to be imposed as a requirement.



The Cheras CLQ currently houses workers from seven countries, which are Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, India, Nepal and Vietnam. They are built by two contractors, IJM Construction Sdn Bhd and Ahmad Zaki Construction Sdn Bhd, who are also the Work Package Contractors for the MRT Project.

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About the MRT Project

MRT is a new rail transport system for the Klang Valley. It is part of the government's Greater Kuala Lumpur/Klang Valley's National Key Economic Area (NKEA), under the Economic Transformation Programme. The Sungai Buloh – Kajang (SBK) Line runs for 51kms, from the north-west town of Sg Buloh to the south-east city town of Kajang. Upon completion, it will comprise 31 stations, and serve 1.2 million people along the route. It will also have strategic integration with KL's existing rail transport network, namely the LRT, Monorail and KTM Komuter, as well as intra and inter-city bus routes. The end result will be better connectivity for KL and its surrounding cities, while reducing the number of cars that enter the capital.

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